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Chapter 221: Chapter 221: Big Watermelon

Then, the host continued with the third question: "Please, who is the poet of the ancient poem that goes: 'The state is shattered yet the mountains and rivers remain, the city in spring is densely vegetated, flowers shed tears in these times, heart startled by the parting birds'?"

The competitors were all weak and only I was a boss, a boss with a built-in Golden Finger. So Ji You was leisurely planning to buzz in slowly, but before she could stretch out her finger, she heard a ding dong:

— It's Sheng Qingyan.

The robotic host smiled at Sheng Qingyan and said, "Please answer the question. Whether you are over time or answer incorrectly, it will be considered wrong."

While Sheng Qingyan spoke towards the robot, his eyes glanced at Ji You, with a confidence of sure victory, saying, "The poet of this ancient poetry is Du Fu from the Tang Dynasty of Ancient Earth Huaxia."

The robot host smiled and said, "Congratulations, you're right."

Next.

One question followed by another.

Most of it was dominated by Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, Ji You knew her own affairs - she was an antique thousands of years old. But Little Cutie Sheng Qingyan, surprisingly, knew so much about ancient poetry, which was beyond Ji You's expectations.

Of course, she didn't know yet, that this lazy Sheng Qingyan, who usually has no grand aspirations and only knows to idle away, browsing through various lore daily; be it poetry, Soul Device appraisal, or classical antiquities, he dabbled in some of it.

Others?

The questions were monopolized by Ji You and Sheng Qingyan, leaving little for others to do. Yue Qi managed to luck out on 5 questions, narrowly making it to the final round. Shen Changqing did slightly better than Yue Qi, answering 6 correctly and also advanced.

As for—

Poor student from Xuzhou, not only was his appearance rough, but his knowledge was also very rough. Throughout the dozens of questions, he couldn't answer even one correctly.

So, the unknowledgeable student from Xuzhou was regretfully eliminated.

What is coming in the next round?

Ji You, Shen Changqing, Yue Qi, and Sheng Qingyan, the four qualifiers, glanced at each other, all fell silent.

Shen Changqing suddenly said, "Ji You, I must reassess you. You are knowledgeable in so many areas, truly admirable."

Ji You: "???"

What's going on?

Suddenly this brother comes over to praise me, leaving me totally baffled.

Shen Changqing earnestly said, "I think, I should also broaden my knowledge."

Grandpa always said I was too focused on a single area, telling me to be a well-rounded individual. But all he wanted was to engage in Mechanical Manufacturing, hoping to create a Mecha that astonishes the world. He dislikes fighting as well as life in the Legion.

However—

Grandpa once sighed, saying, "As long as the threat of Star Beasts exists, our generation, your generation, do not have the freedom to choose our own way of living. Changqing, Grandpa also wants you to live the life you long for. But?"

"In our Shen Family, from generation to generation, we fight for the Alliance's stability and for the people's peace, always struggling at the frontline, whether it be Grandpa, your dad, or you, none have the right to a free life."

"That's our Shen Family's mission and also our honor."

As a child, Shen Changqing didn't understand these profound and unfathomable words, and he didn't want to. All he knew was, hearing that his mom and dad were sacrificed at the front, and wouldn't see his parents ever again, little him, his face stiff, didn't cry.

What's there to cry about?

Dad and mom, he only met a few times since he became sensible. As for grandpa? Though grandpa spent more time with him, it wasn't much. Most of Shen Changqing's childhood was spent alone in the vast estate, accompanied by machinery and Mecha parts.

So—

He liked Mechanical Manufacturing and fantasized that one day, he would create a unique Mecha that resonates only with him.

But—

Shen Changqing's specialized focus and passion, along with his personality, were soon discovered by General Shen Chi and were strongly corrected. Seeing the corrections were not effective, General Shen Chi, disregarding Shen Changqing's opposition, forcibly changed Shen Changqing's university aspirations.

In certain moments, Shen Changqing really wanted to contradict his grandfather. He believed that this behavior was not merely a childish rebellion; he had seriously considered his own direction in life.

But—

Grandpa said, he had no choice.

When his spiritual power reached S-level, he lost even more of his right to choose his life.

This made Shen Changqing very sad.

As for the grandfather's saying that one should read thousands of books and travel thousands of miles to develop comprehensively, Shen Changqing simply couldn't listen to it at first.

Now!!!

Shen Changqing realized that his grandfather's words actually made a lot of sense. For instance, if he hadn't been forced by his grandfather to read some ancient books, how could he have answered questions quickly and advanced smoothly?

If he couldn't advance, he couldn't even enjoy a delicious meal. Then what was the meaning of his previous efforts and struggles?

So—

For the sake of delicious food and drinks, he truly needed to develop comprehensively.

Shen Changqing looked at Ji You and solemnly said the above.

Ji You: "???"

Ji You continued to be dumbfounded, but since Shen Changqing, his good brother, had a goal, he must encourage him. So, Ji You loudly said, "Brother Shen Changqing, I believe you can do it."

Shen Changqing: "..."

For some reason, recently when Ji You spoke to him, he always unintentionally added a word or two about brothers.

Couldn't understand.

Shen Changqing didn't delve deeper.

On this side, Yue Qiyuan saw that Shen Changqing was considering comprehensive development and learning other knowledge, Yue Qiyuan was also considering whether he should learn a few more subjects? Could he handle them when the time comes?

If possible.

Of course, he should learn.

But Yue Qiyuan was a very reserved person, he made up his mind secretly without announcing it.

Then——

The final competition was about to be revealed!

It turned out to be a big eater competition!

Looking at the competition stage, filled with one after another big watermelon!

Yes.

It was juicy, thirst-quenching, and sweetly appealing big watermelon!!!

Everyone: "!!!"

Ji You: "!!!"

How could there be such good things in this world?

Ji You couldn't believe her eyes, she stepped forward, raised her hand and knocked on the big watermelon, quickly hearing a clear thudding sound.

Also skeptical like Ji You was Sheng Qingyan, who also immediately ran up to check the authenticity of the watermelon.

Hmm!

Exactly!

It was indeed a watermelon!

It was naturally grown big watermelon, not an artificial one.

And——

How much per kilogram was this kind of watermelon on the Star Network? Ji You sneakily glanced at the Light Computer's price and instantly widened her eyes: "Damn, 2500 credit points per kilogram!!! The boss is really extravagant."

Chapter 222: Chapter 222: A Bloody Case Triggered by Watermelons

So, how much are these dozens of round watermelons worth?

Each weighing at least ten pounds, there are around forty to fifty here. So, how much in credit points exactly?

Nope.

Nope.

Nope.

My brain is about to crash, can't calculate anything clearly.

Ji You only knew one fact, these watermelons in front of her represented a fortune!

As soon as the contest rules were announced, Ji You looked at the remaining ten contestants, waved her hand grandly, and said dominantly, "I advise you nine to just forfeit! Because today, I, Ji You, declare that these watermelons, I'm taking them all for myself."

Nine contestants: "..."

Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes disgustingly, and said, "Where did this shameless lunatic come from? I suggest dragging him out and beating him to death!"

Shen Changqing opened his mouth, then suddenly said, "I agree."

Yue Qiyuan raised his hand, pointing to his feet, and said, "I raise both hands and feet in agreement!"

The rest: "Then no more nonsense! Let's beat him to death!"

A sinister cold air appeared from nowhere, Ji You shook her shoulders, cursing, "You ungrateful fools! I was making it easy for you, but you just don't get it, don't blame me for being rude."

Sheng Qingyan gave her a sidelong glance: "People are laughing in your face..."

Shen Changqing pursed his lips, "I won't lift a finger, but I can provide weapons, anyone wants to strike first?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You took a breath, glancing unexpectedly at Shen Changqing, and said, "Big brother, what has changed with you? How come I don't even recognize you anymore?"

Honest people—

When they suddenly become dishonest, it's kind of scary.

Shen Changqing turned his head, looking at Ji You, said seriously, "I want to eat watermelon."

Ji You: "..."

Ah~

Men!

Always appearing decent, but once food is involved, their true colors show.

I see through you.

Meanwhile, Yue Qiyuan darkly added, "Give me the weapon, I'll finish her off. But let me make it clear, I am the primary force here, I'm taking the lion's share of these watermelons! One fifth has to be mine."

Upon hearing this, the others quickly responded, "Killing her is tough work, no need for you to bother, we few can handle it, just leave it to us, us brothers want no more than half."

Sheng Qingyan rolled her eyes, "Keep dreaming!"

Shen Changqing said, "I disagree."

Yue Qiyuan said, "I disagree too." He paused slightly, looked at Sheng Qingyan and Shen Changqing, said earnestly, "How about, the three of us team up, get rid of the rest, and then split it equally?"

Sheng Qingyan's eyes immediately lit up, "That's a really good idea..."

Shen Changqing's eyes flickered slightly, he nodded, "Feasible."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You couldn't help but say, "Enough you guys, you are utterly shameless! From a gang wanting to crush me alone, to your internal strife, then forming small groups and incessant fighting... Aren't your roles too excessive?"

Not just the contestants, even the surrounding audience, at this moment looking at each plump Big Watermelon, everyone was unsettled. While Ji You, Shen Changqing, and others were secretly plotting to kill their opponents and monopolize the watermelons, the spectators were also quietly discussing, "Should we kill these ten finalists and then share the watermelons among ourselves?"

"I think it's a plan."

"Sound idea, I'm in."

"Yeah, I'll join."

"I must be included in such a great opportunity."

"Bosses, a weakling like me wants to join the group, take me! Take me! I can go and kill the weakest one in their team, Ji You!"

Ji You, who has sharp ears and is very good at detecting demeaning and slanderous voices aimed at her, immediately heard this comment from the crowd. Following the direction of the gaze, she looked forward and saw a tall figure hiding among the people. Even though he tried to appear weak and pitiful, Ji You immediately spotted his sneaky and dodgy eyes!

Ji You narrowed her eyes dangerously: "Oh! Little Zhouzhou, Barbie loves you so much and always thinks of you when she has anything good. Yet you secretly want to kill me!"

Humph!

Just wait and see!

From now on, you are no longer my beloved child.

Over here.

Xuzhou suddenly forcefully broke away from Zhang Ye's restraining hand, pushing him from behind and with an angry expression, said, "Zhang Ye, you went too far just now. Why did you push me out to take the blame?"

Zhang Ye wiped the sweat from his forehead, forced a smile and said, "Isn't it because you are her beloved child? Even if she's angry, she wouldn't really hurt you, right? Definitely not."

Xuzhou: "..."

Xuzhou felt a bit exhausted.

Zhang Ye, looking at those Big Watermelons, said, "You Iron Fool, do you super regret now? You've already struggled up to the fourth level, yet you got eliminated, why are you so useless?"

Xuzhou: "..."

Iron Fool Xuzhou retorted, saying, "I might be useless, but at least I made it to the fourth round, what about you?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Xuzhou said, "Not only are you useless, but you are also a jinx."

Zhang Ye: "..."

Taking a deep breath, Zhang Ye said, "Little Zhouzhou, you're not the old Little Zhouzhou anymore."

Xuzhou: "... Shut up! I don't hit girls, but do you think I'm scared to hit you?"

Zhang Ye: "..."

Zhang Ye chuckled dryly and said, "Hey hey... we're brothers, why say such things? Don't be angry. It was just a joke."

Xuzhou: "Don't call me Little Zhouzhou."

Spicy Eye.

This scene took place in a corner, and since it wasn't about her, Ji You naturally didn't care. Right now, all she could see in her eyes, her heart, and her mind was one thing – the Big Watermelon!

The juicy, sweet Big Watermelon.

The shop owner looked at everyone, whether they were contestants or other customers, and at that moment, thought that everyone was assuming they could finish all the watermelons by themselves. He smiled slightly and thought to himself:

These people who haven't seen the big scene really think they can just eat the watermelon freely and finish it?

Naïve!

Then, the shop owner immediately arranged for service robots to cut the 10 watermelons, each of the same weight, into slices, and placed neat slices of watermelon next to each contestant.

The moment the watermelon was cut, a natural fresh fragrance filled the air, making everyone itch to run in and grab a piece to satisfy their craving.

The shop owner said, "In this eating contest, the rules are simple: whoever eats the most and the fastest wins."

Ji You raised her hand and asked loudly, "Boss, there's no limit, right? If there isn't enough here, will you add more watermelons?"

Hearing this, the shop owner thought: Even more naive! These are huge watermelons weighing at least ten pounds each, even if these 10 people have huge stomachs, they couldn't possibly finish them all.

More watermelons?

Impossible.

The shop owner waved his hand grandly and said, "Yes, we can."

Chapter 223: Chapter 223: Speculation...

Upon hearing the affirmative response from the store owner, Ji You instantly relaxed.

What does this imply?

It means she can really eat to her heart's content without worries!

It has to be said, the owner is really straightforward.

Then, as the countdown ended, the host announced: "Start!"

In an instant! Ji You picked up a piece of watermelon and took a big bite, the refreshing and juicy taste immediately made one nearly intoxicated.

Ji You was so happy she almost fainted.

She never thought, in her lifetime, she would be able to joyfully munch on watermelon like this again!

Without saying much, it took Ji You less than a minute to finish one piece, and then she picked up another.

...

While eating, she sneakily glanced at her competitors, focusing mainly on Sheng Qingyan. For some reason, Ji You felt that Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan looked fearsome but posed no real threat, only Sheng Qingyan was unpredictable.

This guy, he was the winner of the last contest.

Although—there wasn't a watermelon eating contest last time. But still, one couldn't be too careful.

Sheng Qingyan nibbled on the watermelon slice, biting and pausing, not rushing to finish it. Ji You guessed he was probably planning for a long-term battle.

Meanwhile, Shen Changqing's eating manner wasn't wolfish like Ji You's. His eating was quite refined, every move showing a good upbringing, yet, he wasn't slow in speed.

One bite, two bites, three bites, he finished a piece of watermelon almost at the same pace as Ji You.

On Yue Qiyuan's end, the strategy was very similar to Sheng Qingyan's; it seemed like they planned to extend the game slowly.

Other people were mostly wolfing down their food.

Around them: "Damn! I have never envied a group of people in my life! Never have I ever felt this envious! I'm so jealous that I want to pull out a weapon and rob them!"

"Me too."

"Funny, me too."

"Right, later let's find a sack, and when these people disperse, just cover them with it and beat them up?"

"Good idea."

"Count me in."

"No one but me!"

Competition arena.

The big eaters, each giving their all, a watermelon weighing ten pounds would be devoured in less than ten minutes.

What kind of combat power is this?

Then.

The robot, without hesitation, opened a second watermelon for each person. The second one, also weighing ten pounds.

By the second one, those who were wolfing down began to feel a bit full: "I... what's happening? I still want to eat, why does it feel like my stomach can't hold anymore?"

"Me... me too."

"My stomach also started to give up."

"Done for! We're going to lose!"

At this moment, the contestants on the field started to panic, still wanting to eat, not feeling full in their mouths at all, but they just couldn't eat anymore, as if their stomachs were about to burst.

Game over.

However—

On the field, there were still a few people leisurely and slowly nibbling at their watermelon: Ji You, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan. The expressions on their faces showed no sign of panic.

Huh?

Stomachs not full?

Shen Changqing put down a piece of watermelon, raised his hand, picked up another piece, and continued to eat leisurely.

The overeaten contestants glanced at his belly, noting it was flat as ever, showing no signs of being overly full.

Contestants: "..."

What beasts.

Can't beat her, just can't beat her.

Then, everyone's gaze turned towards Sheng Qingyan and Yue Qiyuan, who were eating their watermelons even more slowly, but still elegantly without staining their clothes with juice.

Competitors: "..."

Admiration.

Truly admirable.

And then—

Everyone's eyes followed to the last corner, finding Ji You, who was sitting on the ground, hugging a watermelon and eating bite after bite with such speed that there were no pauses visible.

Moreover, she might be the only one in the competition who hasn't paused, rested, or slowed down her eating pace. And her stomach, still flat, showed no signs of having eaten so much watermelon.

This—

The competitors couldn't find the words to describe her anymore.

Monster!

She is a monster!

A monster more terrifying than a level 10 Star Beast!

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

Time gradually passed, and on the field, the other competitors had given up resisting, leaving only Yue Qiyuan, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, and Ji You still valiantly eating watermelon.

After a while.

Yue Qiyuan stopped, clutching his stomach tightly and said, "You continue, I can't do it anymore."

Just two minutes after Yue Qiyuan gave up, Shen Changqing looked at Ji You, then at Sheng Qingyan, with an indescribable expression in his eyes, and said, "I give up too, I wish you success."

Ji You waved her hand and said, "Thank you, big brother, I definitely won't let down your expectations."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Shen Changqing, driven by curiosity, took a glance at Ji You's stomach and found it was really as flat as the ground.

So—

Where is she hiding it?

Ji You chuckled and said, "Don't be curious, I just digest quickly."

Shen Changqing rarely spoke, "It's unscientific."

Even if digestion is quick, it doesn't explain everything.

On the other side, Sheng Qingyan was still resisting stubbornly, but his enchanting face showed a trace of fatigue.

Ji You stole a glance, feeling that the winner would soon be decided, and said to herself that she must hold on. Then she quietly asked Xiao You, hidden in the Iron Plate, "Xiao You, can you still hold on?"

Xiao You burped, seeming a bit shy, and said softly, "Sis... Sister... I will hold on."

Ji You thought for a moment and said, "No need to rush; if you really can't eat anymore, don't force yourself. Besides, I guess as long as we persist for another minute, at most one minute, Sheng Qingyan will definitely give in."

Xiao You nodded vigorously: "Okay!"

It was during this watermelon eating contest that Ji You discovered Xiao You, hidden in the Iron Plate, could actually eat with her, only Xiao You couldn't use her real body but her Consciousness to eat. Although these watermelons were not solid, Xiao You could taste them and even feel full.

But what was magical was that although Ji You alone ate so much watermelon, the moment the watermelons entered her stomach, she felt that half of them were instantly transferred into the Iron Plate for Xiao You to eat.

What did this imply?

Could it be—

Xiao You in the Iron Plate can eat food from now on?

Or is it—

The Iron Plate can be used for storage like a Space Button in the future? She planned to find an opportunity to test this when she went back to see if it could be done.

Regarding this—

Ji You was very much looking forward to it.

Chapter 224: Chapter 224: Effects of the Soul Device

seconds.

seconds.

seconds.

Sheng Qingyan suddenly put down the slice of watermelon in his hand and forcefully spat it out. He pulled out a silk scarf, wiped the corner of his mouth, and looked at Ji You, "You poor dead goner... really a reincarnation of a starving ghost..."

"Can't compete with that."

"Can't compete with that."

"Not competing anymore."

"It's infuriating Little Cuties."

Honestly speaking, Sheng Qingyan felt certain he wouldn't lose; he just needed to hold on for a few more tens of seconds. No, even 30 more seconds would have ensured his victory.

However—

Those 30 seconds were just absolutely impossible to endure.

Sheng Qingyan was very frustrated, frustrated enough to want to shut himself off.

Once Ji You heard Sheng Qingyan giving up, she immediately threw away the watermelon in her hand.

Gosh~

There was a feeling that she might never want to eat watermelon again in this lifetime.

—Even though it was delicious.

As soon as the results came out, the store owner's loud voice immediately rang out: "Congratulations, this month's winner has been born, she is from the 131st class, a first-year student, Ji You! Congratulations to you!"

Next, Mengmeng, despite the store owner's objection, insisted on running over and rubbing against Ji You's palm.

Store owner: "..."

The store owner then happily said: "Ji You, you're welcome to come and visit Mengmeng more often. This child often gets unhappy and needs someone to play with, but I have chosen countless people so far, and it doesn't like any of them."

"You are the only human it likes."

Upon hearing this, Ji You's lips curled up in praise: "Because Mengmeng is an alpaca with very good taste!"

Mengmeng: "Aoo aoo..."

Ji You raised her hand and massaged its little head.

Seeing this scene, the store owner got jealous and said, "I, the Master, usually have to see its mood when I want to touch it. I didn't expect it to like Ji You so much. Mengmeng is very happy today."

"Thank you."

Ji You laughed heartily: "I really like Mengmeng too."

This alpaca, not only is it well-behaved and enjoys being petted, but it also has great taste.

Love it, totally love it.

On the competition field, there were still dozens of watermelons left, and all those who had spoken big words and asked to take all the watermelons had been defeated, including Ji You. This was something the store owner had anticipated early on.

Therefore—

The store owner suddenly waved his hand and declared directly: "The watermelons here are all free for everyone to enjoy."

"Wow~"

"The boss is wise!"

"Business is booming, boss~"

The store owner, seeing everyone so happy, and with Mengmeng also gleeful, felt it was all worth it. His motive for organizing these events wasn't just for business; he also wanted to find companions for Mengmeng to play with.

Mengmeng hated being lonely and often felt depressed and sad, hence the owner held activities monthly, just to entertain her.

The sight of several hundred people in the store crowding around to eat watermelon was truly astonishing and hilarious. In the end, the 10 contestants who couldn't eat anymore just sat aside to ease their stomachs.

Ji You was also sprawled out in exhaustion.

Beside her, Sheng Qingyan looked like a pufferfish, huffing and puffing. Whenever he saw Ji You, he seemed on the verge of exploding with anger. Ji You originally didn't want to pay him any mind, but as her gaze inadvertently swept past Sheng Qingyan's earlobe, her eyes suddenly fixated.

— It was a pair of pink earrings.

— Crafted by her own hands.

Ji You leaned in a bit and asked suddenly, "Sheng Qingyan, can you tell me, have you noticed any significant effects since wearing these Soul Devices?"

Normally, a Soul Device uses an Array Diagram to support a complete cycle of spiritual power. The continuously circulating spiritual power would slowly nourish the wearer's own spiritual power.

This process could take months, or even a year and a half, to see any obvious changes.

Of course— if it's a low-level soul artifact, it might not last as long; at most, it could only nourish for a few days, or less than half a month.

Ji You had never worn a Soul Device before. The few low-level soul artifacts she had bought were all for one-time use; they never stayed in her possession for long. Therefore, Ji You had no idea what effects other wearers experienced from Soul Devices.

Sheng Qingyan had originally intended to ignore Ji You, but upon hearing her refer to his precious Soul Device, he raised his hand and gently caressed his earrings, before saying, "Of course, they're great! Why else would one wear them?"

Ji You felt puzzled and asked, "But I've seen you wearing them for several days already."

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "What does wearing them for a few days count for? The Soul Devices I bought can last at least a year or two... Haven't you already heard Teacher Cheng Yu mention this? Why ask so many questions?"

Ji You said, "Ah ha~ I forgot. So, have you felt any significant increase in your spiritual power since wearing the Soul Device?"

Sheng Qingyan's expression suddenly turned serious, "You country bumpkin... Don't speak such ignorant things in the future... How could one see results so quickly? If it were instant, it wouldn't be a low-level soul artifact; that's an effect you'd get from high-level Soul Devices..."

Hmm?

So, does this mean all the low-level soul artifacts she had used were actually producing immediate effects?

Every time she used one, she'd immediately experience a boost.

Was this due to her Physical Strength, her Mutated Spiritual Power, or was it all thanks to the Iron Plate?

Ji You thought about when she used precious treasures like Butterfly Honey, Candy Beans, and Soul Devices—all times the Iron Plate would silently appear and then quickly consume all her treasures.

So, did the Iron Plate play an intermediary role, significantly reducing the time she needed to nourish spiritual power through the cyclic Array Diagram?

All of this, Ji You couldn't confirm for the time being.

After some thought, Ji You frowned and intentionally remarked, "With what you said, the Master's Soul Device you bought doesn't seem to be that impressive. With no immediate effects and no difference from other Soul Artifact Masters, it just lasts a tad longer, which doesn't seem very formidable to me."

It wasn't that Ji You enjoyed belittling herself; since the soul artifacts she crafted were useless to her, she simply wasn't enthusiastic about any of them.

Sheng Qingyan couldn't stand to hear this, "Who says my Master is not impressive? She's very capable... The nourishing effect on spiritual power from wearing her crafted Soul Devices is definitely better."

"I've been stuck with Dual A Talent for a very long time... No matter what I ate or supplemented in recent years... There was hardly any help for enhancing my spiritual power."

"But after using this Soul Device crafted by the Master, the spiritual power that had been stagnant for a long time has started to improve slightly."

Sheng Qingyan looked at Ji You stubbornly, "In any case, you can't say anything to disparage my Master."

Ji You: "..."

Sorry, but she really didn't have that hobby—to demean or slander herself.

Chapter 225: Chapter 225: Beauty and Kindness Are Ji You

Ji You said, "Which ear of yours heard me bad-mouthing your master, huh? Don't be deaf..."

Sheng Qingyan retorted, "Hmph... You didn't say it out loud, but I heard your belly talking... You poor dead ghost! No matter how much you bad-mouth my master, you will never win her favor..."

The expression on Sheng Qingyan's face, how should I put it? It was just too serious, so serious that Ji You couldn't bear to crush his feelings.

Forget it.

Forget it.

Forget it.

Don't argue with an ignorant Little Cutie.

Ji You remembered something and asked, "Is it really hard to advance after reaching Double A?"

Speaking of which, she had encountered several people with Dual A Talent like Teacher Cheng Yu, Sheng Qingyan, and Zhang Ye... All these were Dual A. Cheng Yu's strength—when he released his Spiritual Pressure in a lecture last time—gave Ji You a terrifying feeling, but she wasn't exactly sure about his complete situation.

Then there's Sheng Qingyan. His performance at the shooting range, hitting a hundred shots out of a hundred, clearly showed to Ji You that, not to mention anything else, at least in the application of spiritual power, he must not be inferior to her.

And what about Zhang Ye?

Zhang Ye is also Dual A, but it's pretty obvious that his Dual A is far inferior to Teacher Cheng Yu and Sheng Qingyan.

Where does he fall short?

Ji You guessed that it lies in lack of experience and also in the control and cleansing of spiritual power.

Teacher Cheng Yu and Sheng Qingyan must have already trained their Physical Strength and spiritual power to the peak, with no further progress possible. But Zhang Ye clearly hasn't reached that step yet, so, he looks much weaker than them.

But what exactly is the peak of Dual A like? Ji You hasn't reached that step yet, so she didn't have any real sense of it.

When Sheng Qingyan heard Ji You's question, his tone was unusually normal, "It means you have already reached the peak... it's especially difficult to advance to S-level... because Dual A means that your spiritual power and Physical Strength are actually in a balanced state, and to advance, both need to reach completion together to move to S-level... otherwise, without achieving balance, you might just be stuck in Dual A forever."

Ji You: "???"

Seeing Ji You's confused expression, Sheng Qingyan said somewhat disdainfully, "You poor dumb ghost, so poor and dumb... I've explained it so clearly and you still don't understand... Okay, let me explain a few more times to you."

After that, Sheng Qingyan carefully explained it again.

After listening, Ji You finally understood.

It meant that for people with Dual A in spiritual power and Physical Strength, it's actually very difficult to level up. Both have to reach balance to break the barrier to S-level and successfully upgrade. In comparison, if someone's spiritual power is A and Physical Strength is B, one could first increase their spiritual power and when it reaches S-level, slowly upgrade their Physical Strength. Typical examples here include Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan.

Then, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Lou, and Lance did the opposite, first boosting their Physical Strength to S-level and then gradually enhancing their spiritual power.

Of course, reality is not about choosing which one to boost first. Shen Changqing and Yue Qiyuan have strong Innate Spiritual Power, hence they could boost their spiritual power to S-level. Chu Jiaojiao and Yue Qiguang have developed Innate Physique, so they can easily enhance to S-level Physical Strength.

As for people like Teacher Cheng Yu, Sheng Qingyan, Zhang Ye, they are another typical case. Initially, their spiritual power and Physical Strength were not completely balanced, but as they continued training, both attributes tended to balance out. Even forced intervention couldn't stop it unless you don't want to level up, forever staying below Dual A, otherwise, you can only watch yourself become a person with Dual A Talent. Then—in the future, to break this balance barrier, it requires constant efforts, constant scheming... yet there are still many Dual A people who can never break through to the next level.

It can be said, having Dual A Talent is itself a tragedy, a helpless situation.

But—

Is being Double A really that bad?

Actually, no. Across the whole Alliance, and indeed the entire human society, individuals with S-level talent are only a minority. The majority of humans, possessing Double A, A, and B level talents, form the main force of humanity and are the primary combat strength against the Star Beasts.

Some experienced Double A combatants can often challenge and defeat individuals with a single S-level talent. That's a common occurrence.

Ji You understood.

Then—

As Ji You looked at Sheng Qingyan, a hint of sympathy appeared in her eyes, "After all that, turns out you're just a loser too!" A loser stuck at the Double A balance point, unable to easily break through the balance barrier.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan was so angry she almost smoked from her ears and retorted, "You poor deadbeat... is that really what you should be focusing on?"

Ji You chuckled and said, "Thinking that you're just like me, a loser, suddenly makes me feel great, makes everything taste better, I could probably even eat another Big Watermelon."

Having said that, she lifted a slice of watermelon and crunched into it.

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan's face turned dark with irritation and she snapped, "Even if others are losers, they're not as bad as you... besides, I'm not a loser anymore... My Green Glaze Master will rescue me from dire straits..."

Ji You was halfway through biting her watermelon when she almost choked, and said, "Are you sure your master will save you from peril? What if she doesn't like freaks or 'Little Cuties' like you?"

Sheng Qingyan was overly confident and declared, "Impossible... my master is definitely a kind-hearted, broad-minded, life-saving Bodhisattva... After all, she is so cute and so beautiful..."

Ji You: "..."

Over-praised.

But I really don't like 'Spicy Eye' freaks.

Sheng Qingyan, excited thinking about her master, said, "You poor deadbeat... The master has already promised to post an announcement for the next new release, do you want to join me at the master's shop to snatch a Soul Device? If you manage to get one, I'll pay you a reward..."

Ji You flatly refused, saying, "Not interested."

Sheng Qingyan pouted, "You poor deadbeat... you deserve to be poor... you have no sympathy... If I manage to acquire more of master's Soul Devices, I could level up to S... then I'd take you flying with me..."

Ji You pursed her lips, "We'll see when the time comes."

Really—

Somehow feels a bit pitiful.

Ah! Next time, I might consider rigging the game for him.

Hmm~

Look—

This guy keeps calling me a poor deadbeat, yet I can put past grievances aside, indeed—I'm just the kind-hearted, broad-minded, benevolent, beautiful, and generous person Sheng Qingyan talked about.

Chapter 226: Chapter 226: Another Guess About the Iron Plate

The hot pot restaurant's jubilant celebration came to an end, and the gathering of students each made their way back to school. Ji You also intended to leave, but the alpaca named Mengmeng, with a sorrowful look, peered at Ji You, almost rooting her to the spot.

The shop owner, holding Mengmeng, said, "Ever since Mengmeng was sent here, she's always been afraid of being alone. It wasn't easy finding a companion, so she really doesn't want to part with you."

Ji You: "..."

Mengmeng: "Baa baa..."

Ji You's heart softened a bit, she bent down to meet Mengmeng's gaze and said, "Mengmeng, look at me!"

Mengmeng: "Baa baa?"

Ji You said, "Mengmeng, your sister here is a student, and every day I have many learning tasks. These are things we humans must do, and they are a part of our sense of mission as human beings. Similarly, you are an alpaca, so you have your own alpaca

tasks. Your task is to eat a lot of grass every day, to grow high and big in a happy and joyful way, got it?"

With that, Ji You reached out to pat Mengmeng's head and said, "To me, you are now too thin and too short. So, I must issue you a mandatory task: to grow taller and bigger as quickly as possible."

Mengmeng raised her head: "Baa baa..."

Ji You suddenly turned serious and said, "Mengmeng student, can you do this? Can you ensure the task is completed?"

Mengmeng suddenly opened her mouth, with force: "Awo awo..."

Ji You shouted, "Well done, Student Mengmeng! I believe you can complete the task. Next time I come over, I want to check on your progress, okay?"

Mengmeng: "Awo awo!"

Mengmeng called out excitedly, then stretched out her hoof to kick forward, which clearly meant to gesture for Ji You to get going already.

Ji You waved her hand and said, "Goodbye, Student Mengmeng. Once I finish my study tasks, I'll rush back to play with you."

Mengmeng: "Awo awo!"

After Ji You's pep talk, Mengmeng transformed from a depressed and constantly melancholic alpaca into an alpaca full of fighting spirit and vibrancy, and energetically saw Ji You off with actual action.

It wasn't until Ji You stepped out of the hot pot restaurant's door and could no longer see Mengmeng's melancholic face that she quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

Beside her, Xie Lingzhi said with a smirk, "Not bad, even managing to hoodwink an alpaca now."

Ji You: "..."

Feeling somewhat ashamed, Ji You could have never imagined that she would stoop to the level of deceiving an alpaca one day.

How shameful.

But—

Ji You wouldn't admit, not in the slightest, that she was a big deceiver. She spoke with a righteous tone and loudly proclaimed, "What are you talking about, Sister Lingzhi? I'm instilling a proper outlook on life for Mengmeng. Even though it's an alpaca, it should have its own sheep life. My words are to pull it out of its previous lazy and muddle-headed state, constantly relying on others to provide its food and clothing without enjoying what it receives, always complaining and often falling into depression and life's doubts. I'm pulling it out of the fire and water! You see, after my talk, hasn't it perked up, preparing to live its sheep life properly?"

Xie Lingzhi rolled her eyes: "Oh—"

—She almost couldn't help but believe it!

Lea and Xie Chuanqiong, hearing Ji You's words, couldn't help but laugh too.

Xie Chuanqiong only laughed with her mouth without teasing Ji You out loud.

Lea, supporting her waist, said, "Very good... Our You is kind, adorable, and has aspirations. This kind of positive spirit has even crossed species and successfully infected the alpaca. Quite impressive."

Ji You: "..."

After seeing Ji You off to her dormitory, Xie Chuanqiong, Lea, and Xie Lingzhi left.

Back at the dormitory, Ji You hurriedly searched for things to experiment with.

During the watermelon eating contest, after she ate some watermelon, she discovered that Xiao You could also taste the watermelon inside the Iron Plate Space along with her. Although that watermelon in the Iron Plate didn't have a physical form, it still managed to make Xiao You feel full.

So—

What does this mean?

Could it be that one day, my Iron Plate Space could be used as a storage space?

The mere thought excited Ji You so much that her brain went into overdrive, wishing she could immediately stuff her storage space full of supplies.

So—

Being a person with exceptional initiative, she got straight to work. First, she tried with her homework notebook, hoping to put it in. She mentally chanted many times, but the notebook in her hand remained still as ever.

Ji You's face turned a bit dark.

Next, she tried with several low-level nutrient solutions.

However, the nutrient solutions remained motionless, stubborn as a nailed-down tenant, not showing the slightest sign of moving from her hands.

Ji You kept a tense face, feeling a bit panicked inside, yet she persevered and tested a variety of different items experimentally, including food, materials, and mechanical parts... But without exception, all attempts failed.

Ji You: "..."

So, I misunderstood?

Ji You quickly contacted Xiao You and shared her speculation and the results of her failed experiments one by one, asking Xiao You to help analyze the situation.

After listening, Xiao You pondered for a moment and then said, "Sister, have you considered the possibility that this Iron Plate Space might only require things like the Soul Device's spiritual power circulating Array Diagrams and natural food?"

"Tonight, the watermelon we ate is actually a type of natural food, and moreover, it should not be a low-level natural food but rather of an intermediate to high level. Hence, could the Iron Plate be directly absorbing its nutrients through you?"

"And also—actually, when you normally eat braised pork rib rice, I can occasionally catch a faint whiff of it. Maybe its ingredients aren't as pure as watermelon, so I don't feel it as clearly and can't share the meal with you."

Ji You was startled: "You can occasionally catch the scent of the braised pork rib rice I eat?"

Xiao You nodded: "Yeah, just occasionally, I can't always smell it."

Having heard this, Ji You replied with heartfelt sympathy, "Xiao You, you poor thing. You can't eat or drink normally and still have to smell the delicious food I have. It's just so pitiful and sad..."

Xiao You: "..."

Xiao You's face turned pinkish red, "Sister, you're focusing on such strange things."

Ji You waved her hand grandly, saying, "Don't worry, I'll look for more high-quality ingredients like watermelon in the future, so while I eat meat, you can have some soup. If that's not possible, at least you'll get to enjoy the scent more often."

Xiao You: "...Okay." Although Sister's words were a bit funny, she was truly moved, so, so moved...

Xiao You's cheeks still flushed, she whispered, "Um, Sister, have you thought about this—the place I reside in, including our Spiritual World, if we want to improve it, we can use Soul Devices or gradually nurture it with natural food. Why is that?"

Ji You paused, having actually considered this question before with some doubts, and then shared, "The Soul Device has an Array Diagram with spiritual power circulating in it, and what our spiritual power and the Iron Plate really need is the spiritual power flowing through that Array Diagram. But I know it shouldn't be just simply called spiritual power, since it has been stripped from the Soul Artifact Master's spiritual power and bestowed upon the Soul Devices, hence it can't be simply referred to as spiritual power anymore."

"So, what should we call this force that can elevate and cultivate human spiritual power? Currently, the entire human world hasn't unified a concept for it."

"Xiao You, let's name it ourselves. How about... we call it Soul Power? The name comes from the Soul Devices."

Xiao You's cheeks were still rosy as she gently nodded, "Okay. The name Soul Power is really nice, Sister, you're good at naming things."

Ji You laughed heartily, saying, "Besides the Soul Power from Soul Devices, I suspect that natural food—whether low-level, middle-level, high-level, or rare treasures like Butterfly Honey—actually all contain Soul Power. The difference lies in their potency, which is why they can enhance and nurture our spiritual power."

Xiao You giggled softly, "That's also what I suspect."

So—

Both Ji You and Xiao You's faces fell at the same time.

With a woeful expression, Ji You concluded, "So, our Iron Plate Space can only absorb Soul Power and cannot be used as a storage space."

Ah!

This blasted Iron Plate, a scammer online.

The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers #Chapter 227: The Returned Assignment - Read The Interstellar Queen of Scavengers Chapter 227: The Returned Assignment

Chapter 227: Chapter 227: The Returned Assignment

That evening, running short on time, Ji You didn't log into the Alliance intranet to play games; instead, she spent points to download the course from Professor Ye Hong of the Material Department and started watching. Perhaps due to the large consumption of Physical Strength and spiritual power during today's shooting competition, coupled with her frequent use of spiritual power to contact Xiao You afterward, Ji You felt somewhat drained. She nodded off several times while listening to the lecture in front of her Light Computer.

Ji You forced herself to listen to the entirety of Professor Ye Hong's lecture, then took out the materials she had prepared in advance and began to work on her homework.

Today's lesson primarily explained several methods for processing liquids. Ji You followed the instructions given by Professor Ye Hong and completed the in-class assignments.

This time, she was overwhelmed by sleepiness and didn't give the task much thought, methodically following the tutorial. The results were almost identical to those of Professor Ye Hong's, with hardly any mistakes. After finishing, she hurriedly found a delivery robot to send her homework to the laboratory of Professor Ye Hong.

After sending it, Ji You checked the time and felt that it hadn't been submitted late, hoping it wouldn't be rejected.

So—

Ji You went to bed.

She slept soundly and had a beautiful dream in which she became the richest woman in the interstellar overnight.

**

Professor Ye Hong's laboratory.

Professor Ye Hong was engrossed at the experimental bench, meticulously grading assignments. The Material Department's freshman class consisted of over a thousand students, and he personally reviewed each piece of homework. Of course, he had machines to assist with checking; he didn't need to examine each one individually but could follow along with the machine's results for comparison.

Drip—

A prompt tone sounded in his ears, indicating that a student's homework had been delivered.

Professor Ye Hong looked up and glanced at the retro clock in the laboratory; it was exactly 11 PM. If two seconds had passed, the assignment would be considered late.

Under normal circumstances, Professor Ye Hong would certainly have rejected it and even deducted academic points from the student.

But—

At this moment, Professor Ye Hong already knew whose homework it was.

—Ji You

—A poor student who seemed to have 'pride' written all over her brain.

Professor Ye Hong, who previously thought Ji You would not submit her homework for days, had a glint of light in his eyes, but his face showed impatience as he muttered, "She really knows how to time it right. Does she think I won't deduct her points?"

Forget it.

After all, there were still two seconds left, not technically late.

But—

If there is a next time, he will certainly deduct her points.

Thinking this way, Professor Ye Hong raised his hand to unpack the parcel and check the homework himself.

This batch of students' homework may seem uniform and orderly because the topic explained in this lesson was rather profound and challenging. Frankly, Professor Ye Hong felt that none of the submissions were particularly outstanding.

Hmm—

What about Ji You's?

Although Ji You was not attending classes in person, every piece of homework she submitted had always surprised Professor Ye Hong. At this moment, whether he admits it or not, he had a certain level of expectation for Ji You's work.

The result.

After checking the homework, Professor Ye Hong's expression darkened.

What kind of lousy assignment is this?

It was clear it was done perfunctorily, with none of the impressive details.

Oh—

That's not right; her homework was very standard, very orderly, thoroughly following his lecture and the steps he had demonstrated, replicating the example he had casually made in class with almost no difference.

Not to mention other points, just take these two for comparison.

Purity? Myself: 95.6%, Ji You: 95.55%.

Utilization rate? Myself: 80.1%, Ji You: 80.1%.

Upon seeing this, Ye Hong almost wanted to laugh out of anger.

Is this a good assignment?

Indeed.

This is an excellent copied assignment.

But does he need to educate a student who specializes in copying and imitating?

Ye Hong darkened his face, flipped through Ji You's previous assignments again, and the more he looked, the more his heart ached – how earnest those past assignments had been, how clever the ideas, how neat the craftsmanship...

In frustration, Professor Ye Hong directly marked a huge cross on the grade column of Ji You's assignment and appended a note: [I do not accept trash assignments!]

After grading, Professor Ye Hong had the robot repackage the assignment and send it to the recipient's dorm.

After finishing all this, Ye Hong still felt unsatisfied. His face, full of furrows, was like a thunderous cloud looming over. Then, suddenly, he sent Mu Jianling a message: [Mu Jianling!!! Go mess with your Combat Department all you like, but don't let it interfere with the studies of students from other departments! This is negligence! It's an obstruction to the free choice of students from other departments! Please mind your own business!]

After sending the message, Professor Ye Hong huffed and puffed, furrowed his brow, wrinkled his nose, pursed his lips, set his face in a grimace, and left his laboratory.

On this side –

Having finished a day of training and now lounging lazily on the sofa, binging on shows, Mu Jianling was alerted by an urgent notification tone. Thinking something major had happened, he instantly turned off the drama and opened the message.

Upon a brief glance, he discovered it was a message from Ye Hong.

And —

What the hell?

What nonsense about negligence?

What warnings to behave?

Mu Jianling, completely baffled, closed the message and couldn't help cursing: "That old grumbler Ye Hong probably forgot to take his meds again."

Why bother with someone like him, who will complain whether it suits him or not, blustering about everything and everyone?

After deleting the message, Mu Jianling continued watching his drama.

Ji You, lost in a dream of overnight riches, was totally clueless that her assignment had been marked with a big red cross or that, in some corner, her mentor Mu Jianling had shouldered half the blame for her.

The next day.

Waking up refreshed, Ji You got ready and put on a tank top and workout clothes, preparing to go out for a run. Although running wasn't as effective as training in the gym, Xiao You, who made it a point to run every day, found it to be a very relaxing and stress-relieving activity.

Running continuously and surpassing various destinations made Ji You feel like she was overcoming difficulties and achieving goals. She enjoyed the process immensely.

Just before leaving, Ji You was surprised to find a package waiting for her, and it looked strangely familiar – wasn't this the homework she had sent out yesterday?

What's going on?

Ji You opened the package and immediately looked perplexed: her assignment was marked with a striking red cross, but she was sure she had done everything according to the standards, hadn't she?

She was certain there was nothing wrong with her assignment.

And now, Professor Ye Hong was calling her assignment trash?

Ji You took out the work, carefully checked it again, and compared it to the data provided by Professor Ye Hong; she genuinely couldn't find any issue.

Clearly, it was a standard assignment done by the book.

Then how come it turned into trash?

She couldn't figure it out.

Ji You set it aside, deciding to review it again after today's classes. If there were still no issues, she would definitely send a message to Professor Ye Hong, inquiring about his criteria for labeling assignments as trash.

Chapter 228: Chapter 228: Providing Proof

Ji You stepped out of the dorm, and ran into Sheng Qingyan, who was dressed in a sports tank top and sneakers, looking vigorous but with his eyes slightly closed and yawning non-stop. This guy, it seemed like he was sleeping with his eyes closed even while walking.

Ji You: "..."

Ji You's eyebrows twitched, and she couldn't help but ask, "What's with you?"

Hearing her voice, Sheng Qingyan lifted his eyelids slightly, and upon seeing Ji You, he said irritably, "Are you blind... Can't you see I'm about to go for a run?"

"..." Ji You was speechless and immediately pointed at his closed eyes, saying, "I'm not blind, so what's up with your eyes?"

Sheng Qingyan snapped at Ji You and retorted, "Mind your own business? I just like to run with my eyes closed..."

Upon hearing that, Ji You was thoroughly impressed, "You're awesome, the most awesome in the Universe."

In the face of such a character, Ji You admitted defeat and decided to keep a clear boundary and be her own little shrimp.

Then—

Ji You started running along the main road of the dormitory area.

Having only taken a few steps, she ran into a group of girls, all wearing tank tops. Honestly, seeing this scene, Ji You was a bit dazed: what's going on here?

They run, that's fine, but why do they all have to wear tank tops?

And—

It hits hard.

This row of tank tops, each girl with fair skin, beautiful faces, slim waists, and long legs, not to mention curves from the front to back, made the petite Ji You look dull in comparison.

The leader of these running tank tops seemed to be a very beautiful girl who Ji You found vaguely familiar. Was she the unfortunate girl who mentioned that her family forced her to run all day to earn her daily living expenses?

Following the direction of her name tag, Ji You glanced at it, realizing her name was Chen Yan.

Upon seeing Ji You, Chen Yan smiled and said, "Hello, Ji You."

Ji You paused, then nodded, "Hello."

Chen Yan smiled and said, "Why did you come so late today? My friends and I have already run a lap." After saying that, she murmured, "Oh my, I'm so tired. After I finish this lap, Ji You, could you please help us by vouching to our families?"

Ji You: "...I just ran into a little trouble when I left, and was 20 minutes late." She had been checking homework and carefully looked through it, realizing there was no issue, which delayed her running time.

Also,

Help vouch?

What?

Chen Yan didn't say more. She passed beside Ji You, slightly bent over, patted Ji You's shoulder, and cheerfully said, "I'll continue running."

Chen Yan took the lead, and her tall friends all started running as well, each one passing by Ji You and raising their hands to pat her shoulder: "Ji You, please, help us out later too."

Ji You: "..."

Nevermind.

They are all beauties, and it was just like being treated as a kid, just a pat on the shoulder, no harm done.

Ji You began to focus on running.

After running for a while, she heard footsteps from behind. Ji You turned back and saw Sheng Qingyan catching up, but—this guy was really an eyesore, literally running with his eyes closed.

Could he really not trip?

With such suspicion, Ji You gradually slowed down, allowing herself to fall slightly behind Sheng Qingyan.

But then—

Sheng Qingyan suddenly opened his eyes and cursed, "You poor dead... why suddenly fall behind? Hurry up and run ahead!"

Ji You puzzledly said, "What does it matter to you whether I run in front or behind?"

Sheng Qingyan glanced at her, "If you're not running ahead, how can they hear you? If they can't hear, they can't figure out the direction, what if they fall over?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, pointing at herself, indignantly said, "You ask me to lead the way, and then you treat me like this? You, Little Cutie, are really annoying..."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan, with twitching eyelids: "Want to earn 10 credit points or not? If not, step aside and don't block their running..."

Upon hearing this, Ji You became even more outraged: "Am I that spineless? You think you can buy me with just 10 credit points? Who do you think I am! Without a serving of braised pork ribs, don't even think about me leading the way."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan glared at Ji You and said, "Aren't you going to lead the way quickly?"

Upon hearing that, Ji You immediately capitulated for the reward, saying, "Alright, alright... Please wait a moment, Grandpa Sheng, I'll run ahead and lead the way."

Mommy!

This money is too easy to earn.

I wonder if more of these foolish and rich people could show up in droves?

Then.

After running a lap, during the run, Ji You discovered that Sheng Qingyan was truly a piece of work; he actually had his eyes closed from start to finish, looking drowsy and not fully awake.

Moreover, after Sheng Qingyan ran a lap, his handsome face was still clean and composed, not a bit flushed or out of breath, breathing steadily...

Ji You was genuinely impressed.

At this moment, led by Chen Yan, a group of girls from the running squad approached Ji You after finishing their run.

Ji You stopped.

Chen Yan said, "Classmate Ji You, could you please take a photo with us as proof that we ran today?"

Ji You was speechless, "Is that really necessary?"

Chen Yan seriously said, "It's very necessary."

Ji You: "..."

Suddenly, Chen Yan and the few girls behind her began to plead pitifully: "Classmate Ji You, all my allowance has been deducted. I really haven't eaten for two days. You have to help me this once, otherwise, I might starve on the streets. Saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-level pagoda, you won't just stand by and watch, right?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You thought for a moment and nodded, "I can testify for you. But I'm only proving that you ran this morning; I didn't agree to any other times."

Chen Yan and the others immediately grinned, saying, "Just for today is enough."

Then—

Ji You took individual photos with these girls, specifying the exact time this morning, testifying that they ran.

After getting the photos, Chen Yan and others immediately sent holographic videos to their families, and one by one, they were all smiles. Chen Yan stepped forward, patted Ji You on the shoulder, and said, "Classmate Ji You, I've realized you're not that annoying after all."

Ji You: "..."

Does that mean she was annoying before?

She is a Little Cutie, after all.

Right after Chen Yan's group left, when Ji You was about to continue running with Sheng Qingyan, suddenly a girl walked directly out from the dormitory area. She didn't bother running around in circles but came straight up to Ji You, requesting proof as if it was her due, "Since you gave a testimony for Chen Yan and others, just do one for me as well while you're at it."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You, frowning, said to this girl named Lin Lele, "Sorry, I'm not a fan of falsifying things, please come back to me after you finish your run."

Chapter 229: Chapter 229: Looking for Trouble?

Ji You crisply and directly refused, which was quite unexpected. Upon hearing this, Lin Lele was instantly furious. She stepped forward, wanting to teach Ji You a lesson.

Hearing the footsteps and whooshing sound behind her, Ji You already sensed hostile intentions. She abruptly bent low to dodge Lin Lele's punch that aimed sneakily at her. And while her opponent was still taken aback, Ji You performed a shoulder throw, tripping Lin Lele onto the ground.

Lin Lele fell to the ground, unable to believe that this person with such poor talent had dodged her sneak attack and even retaliated. She was so angry that she cursed out loud, "Ji You! Don't think I can't deal with you!"

Ji You lifted her chin defiantly and said, "Wait until you get up off the ground, then tell me that again."

Lin Lele was boiling with rage and was about to speak when she suddenly caught sight of Sheng Qingyan beside her, pausing in surprise as her face instantly flushed with embarrassment.

Sheng Qingyan lifted his eyelids, glancing indifferently at her and said, "That was an ugly fall, really ugly... Too spicy for the eye... Now roll away quickly."

Lin Lele's eyes reddened slightly, she covered her mouth and ran away.

Looking at Sheng Qingyan, Ji You reproachfully said, "Look at the mess you've made, you've gone and made the girl cry!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You called out, "Scumbag!"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ji You turned her head and continued jogging.

How did she, a pure and incomparably cute Little Cutie, suddenly become a scumbag?

The change was so sudden that Sheng Qingyan couldn't collect his thoughts for a long time.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Now Sheng Qingyan couldn't sleep, nor could he continue running calmly. He speeded up, took a few steps past Ji You, and demanded, "You poor dead thing, clarify what you said... How am I a scumbag?"

Ji You said, "You know that Lin Lele, right?"

Sheng Qingyan: "I know her... but I—"

Ji You said, "That settles it."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Indeed, today wasn't a good day to go out, meeting unlucky number 4444, and he got unlucky too.

While Sheng Qingyan was feeling gloomy, he heard Ji You ask, "That Lin Lele, is she also from the self-funded class? What's her situation? How is her talent? If she comes to stir up trouble again next time, and I beat her up, would it cause trouble?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "Oh... turns out you can be scared too."

Ji You chuckled and replied, "I might not be scared, but I just dislike trouble."

Sheng Qingyan said, "What's there to be scared of... If she dares to come at you, just beat her up... Beat her enough times and naturally she won't dare to bother you anymore."

Ji You: "..."

She had wanted to find out more about this girl, but hearing Sheng Qingyan's words, Ji You felt that he really couldn't be relied on. She decided she would rather ask Jiaojiao or Shen Changqing instead.

After finishing the run, Ji You also vouched for Sheng Qingyan, who seemed to cheer up immediately, turned around, and prepared to go back to sleep.

Ji You couldn't help asking, "What about the carpool? Where did the carpool go? And what about my red-braised spare ribs rice?"

Yawning, Sheng Qingyan transferred to Ji You the money for the red-braised spare ribs rice plus a day's car fare, and said, "You poor dead thing, go buy it yourself, stop bothering me."

Muttering under his breath, he was about to enter the dormitory building.

Taking the money, Ji You's dissatisfaction vanished in an instant. She turned around, ready to head to the cafeteria for breakfast. Just as she sat down in a self-service Floating Car to leave, she suddenly saw Sheng Qingyan dash up to her.

Ji You: "What's with you?"

Sheng Qingyan, with a dark expression, complained, "Old Man Sheng is too much! Way too much!"

Ji You decided to keep her mouth shut and not ask.

She didn't ask, but Sheng Qingyan just treated Ji You like a trash can, spilling her guts all at once: "That Old Man Sheng in my family is really too much... He actually forced me to take Combat Department classes, when we had agreed that just running would get me my living expenses... But he suddenly went back on his word and only wants to give me half the money, and demands I attend classes every day for the rest..."

"Paid by the day."

"That's way too much."

"I clearly had so much in private savings, all secretly frozen by his behind-the-scenes manipulation..."

"I still need to save up to buy a Soul Device from Master Green Glaze..."

...

Chattering non-stop, Sheng Qingyan complained to Ji You for a long time, but still felt she hadn't vented all her frustrations. Just as she was feeling sad and unhappy, she suddenly heard Ji You say, "Uh... I paid for this Floating Car, are you sure you want a free ride?"

Sheng Qingyan choked: "Didn't I give you the fare?"

Ji You said, "But this is a car I rented, it has nothing to do with you. If you want a free ride, please give me 2 credit points."

Sheng Qingyan was so angry she almost choked, cursing: "You poor dead... bothered about 2 credit points, you deserve to be broke..."

Ji You looked at the furious Sheng Qingyan and laughed, "Of course, I'm not always obsessed with money. There is another way to avoid the fare, which is, if you wouldn't mind shutting your mouth. Why do I have to listen to your ceaseless whining and hear so much about your troubles first thing in the morning? What did I ever do to deserve this?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan cursed, "Don't you have any sympathy at all?"

Ji You bluntly said, "No."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

This scene, why does it feel strangely familiar, as if I've seen it before?

Sheng Qingyan huffed: "You poor dead, you've already pissed off this Little Cutie. From now on, even if you want to talk to me, I won't."

Ji You said, "Sorry, but that day will never come."

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Sheng Qingyan shut down.

All the way in silence, Ji You found the peace and quiet around her ears particularly pleasant, and her mood followed suit. The Floating Car was fast and arrived at the cafeteria in less than 10 minutes. Inside the cafeteria, it was bustling with students all in their places.

Ji You looked around and still chose to line up at the window where Senior Shi Ya might show up, silently queuing. Just as she settled in her spot, Sheng Qingyan followed behind and joined the queue as well.

Ji You wondered and asked, "Why are you following me?"

Sheng Qingyan kept quiet, fully conveying the attitude of refusing to speak to Ji You.

Ji You said, "Even if you follow me, I'm not going to invite you for breakfast, so give up that idea."

Sheng Qingyan kept her mouth shut, silent.

Ji You said, "Those 505 credit points you transferred to me are for my braised pork rice, just so you know I won't be giving any refunds."

Sheng Qingyan took a deep breath and cursed, "Shut up! I just want to come eat a fried dough stick and drink some soy milk, who have I ever bothered to have to listen to your nagging?"

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan snorted through her nostrils: "Hmph..."

Ji You took a deep breath, turned around, and craned her neck, trying to make out through the crowded heads who was standing at the serving window.

Is it Senior He Bi?

Or is it that third-year senior?

Or—

Chapter 230: Chapter 230: Angel Senior

The waiting process was somewhat torturous.

But finally, the line inched forward, and the crowd ahead gradually thinned until——Ji You caught sight in the serving window of Senior Shi Ya, head bowed, wearing gloves, her features exquisitely beautiful.

At that instant, Ji You felt her heartbeat inexplicably speed up a notch.

Oh my!

It really was the immortal senior.

Ji You was almost moved to tears...

How long had it been?

How long since she'd seen her?

Exactly how much time had passed?

Although it had only been about a week, why did she feel like she hadn't seen Senior Shi Ya for a century?

At the serving window, seemingly aware of Ji You's gaze, Shi Ya gradually lifted her head, and her eyes met Ji You's. In Shi Ya's eyes, there was no emotion; her lips were slightly pursed, her complexion as cold as ever.

But——

Even that brief eye contact filled Ji You with emotion:

Indeed!

It was definitely Senior Shi Ya.

Unmistakably the Angel Senior!

Ji You couldn't help but smile at Senior Shi Ya, without any flattery, without any implied meaning, she simply wanted to smile at her.

However——

Senior Shi Ya, expressionless, immediately bowed her head again, continuing to serve the food.

Although she didn't receive a response from Senior Shi Ya, Ji You didn't feel upset at all. She was quite sensitive, and logically, Senior Shi Ya's chilly demeanor should have made her feel quite distant and alien.

But——

From Shi Ya's gaze and attitude, Ji You couldn't detect a trace of malice or indifference towards herself.

One.

Two.

Three.

...

Finally, it was Ji You's turn. She smiled at Senior Shi Ya and then said, "Senior, I'd like a fried dough stick, a sesame flatbread, plus a cup of soy milk, and also a Long-legged Chicken egg."

After having the Long-legged Chicken eggs last time, Ji You had been longing for that taste, which despite being named after eggs, differed greatly from them, especially the flavor, inexplicably delicious.

Even——

She started to suspect, was this Senior He Bi's or perhaps the cafeteria management's conspiracy, a marketing tactic of the cafeteria to sell it cheap, hook the students with a taste, then get them addicted and unable to resist...

Shi Ya said nothing, bowed her head, took out a tray, and began placing the items Ji You ordered on it, followed by handing it to her.

Ji You took the tray, and should have left, but after hesitating, she mustered the courage to ask, "Senior Shi Ya, could I have your contact number? If that's not okay... a Star Network ID would be fine too."

Shi Ya blinked.

Silence.

It was as if the air itself was now filled with an awkward aura.

Just when Ji You thought she'd surely be rejected, she suddenly heard Senior Shi Ya say, "I'll add you."

Ji You blinked in surprise, "You know my contact number?"

Shi Ya nodded, sparing with words: "Hmm."

Ji You's eyes widened, just as she was about to say something, Sheng Qingyan, who was behind her, was getting impatient, urging, "Are you done talking? If you're done, can you let someone else order their breakfast? I'm almost starving."

Ji You hastily made room, standing to the side of the window.

Sheng Qingyan immediately announced her own breakfast order.

Shi Ya didn't say a word, just silently preparing these things.

Ji You stood by, quietly watching. After seeing Shi Ya finish preparing the order for that annoying Little Cutie Sheng Qingyan, she leaned in and said to Senior Shi Ya behind the serving window, "Senior, my contact number is *****. Can you check if this is it? Please don't get it wrong. If you haven't added me yet, I'll add you later."

Shi Ya looked up and nodded.

Then Ji You finally felt reassured, picking up her own meal tray and walking out.

As soon as Ji You left, Shi Ya lifted her head and looked at her slender figure leaving, a fleeting smile of helpless amusement on her lips – so quick that it was almost imperceptible, as if it had never been there at all.

Ji You found a spot, sat down, and quietly enjoyed her breakfast.

She began with soy milk, which had a strong bean flavor but not the unpleasant beany taste, likely because it was made from roasted beans that were freshly ground. In any case, it tasted very good.

She took a small sip of soy milk, then bit into a pancake.

This pancake had a strong wheat aroma; one bite filled her mouth with the fragrance of natural food, which was nothing like the man-made synthetic stuff and explained why it cost so much more.

Next was the fried dough stick, fluffy and soft, with a gentle char on the outside...

Though Ji You savored it slowly, not wanting to devour it all at once, the fried dough sticks, soy milk, and pancakes all quickly diminished. Finally, her eyes moved towards the Long-legged Chicken egg:

Huh?

How come this Long-legged Chicken egg looks slightly different from the one Senior He Bi bought?

But what exactly was different?

The color, the shell, the breed, all Long-legged Chicken eggs for sure.

No problems there.

But—

Still, it felt a little off.

Ji You was pondering over this when suddenly she heard Sheng Qingyan angrily questioning across from her, "You poor dead moron, why is your egg so much bigger than everyone else's!"

Ji You followed Sheng Qingyan's gaze and looked at his plate:

Wow—

If Sheng Qingyan's Long-legged Chicken egg was the size of a normal egg, then Ji You's was the size of a goose egg!

Almost double the size!

Ji You immediately realized what was odd.

After Sheng Qingyan complained, he suddenly reached out, and in a flash, Ji You also reached out and grabbed her Long-legged Chicken egg.

Sheng Qingyan's hand came up empty.

Ji You glowered at him and said, "The bandit! I let my guard down once, and you managed to steal my food. You'll never get a second chance to steal from me in your life!"

Sheng Qingyan mumbled, "It was just one red-braised pork rib, do you have to be so petty?"

Ji You continued to glare at him, annoyed, "Says the one without a stake. Try getting robbed by me, why don't you?"

Sheng Qingyan: "..."

Ignoring him, Ji You lowered her head to start peeling her Long-legged Chicken egg. She had been in a hurry to ask for Senior Shi Ya's contact number and had not paid attention to these things earlier. She had thought she wouldn't receive Senior Shi Ya's favor today, but to her utter surprise!!!

Senior Shi Ya still loved her.

At that moment, Ji You was so moved she almost wanted to cry.

Right then, Ji You really wanted to say to Senior Shi Ya, "Senior Shi Ya, you are my love, I will always, always like you!"

Ji You tapped the eggshell gently. Soon, she heard a crisp cracking sound, and as she peeled away the shell, the smooth, tender, shiny egg white of the whole Long-legged Chicken egg came into view.

She took a bite and her eyes lit up:

Turns out it was a double-yolk egg, no wonder it was larger than a regular Long-legged Chicken egg.

Indeed—

Senior He Bi is a scumbag, always giving her the tiny eggs like those of a sparrow.

Only Senior Shi Ya is a true angel!